

From: darrell vannelli [mailto:ddvannelli@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 03, 2007 8:09 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: bobbreen@earthlink.net
Subject: Opposition to MLPA "Ribbon" Proposal

I am a volunteer docent at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and am opposed to the "ribbon" proposal formally submitted to DF&G on the MLPA by recreational fishing interests. This proposal would allow take within the Reserve from the shore line out 100 yards. If allowed, this would significantly undermine the core purpose of protecting the Reserve as a no-take area.

My mother is a docent at the Reserve and over the past 25 years, she has seen the negative impact human activity has had on the Reserve. Our goal, as docents, is to educate the public on the wonders and fragility of the intertidal marine life at Fitzgerald and provide examples of how they can become good stewards of this unique habitat. Part of our standard message to all groups we lead is the "no take" rule, meaning, no taking of animals, plants, shells, rocks as well as no disturbance of the habitat. We, and they, take this message seriously. But it is very hard to explain to visitors that while they are not allowed to take a grain of sand, people with fishing licenses are allowed to go into these same areas and take out animals at their pleasure.

In addition, I see these same fishing people go into areas that we don't allow others to access. Our rule to kids is that if you are in a tidepool over your toes, you are in too deep. This is to protect the fragile marine life that might be invisible to them in the water or that live just under the surface. Fishing people do not observe this rule. There are areas north and south of the reserve that are wide open to fishing people so restricting activities within the boundaries of the Reserve would not cause undue hardship.

I urge the DF&G to provide the strongest possible protection for Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and oppose the shoreline ribbon allowance for recreational fishing.

Regards,
Marsha Cohen
Volunteer Naturalist
Fitzgerald Marine Reserve